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13 January 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 13 January 1960

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray,
Mr. Harr, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Riddleberger, Mr. Smith

1. Khrushchev's Interview with Ambassador Thompson

Mr. Dulles cited an AP ticker report that Ambassador Thompson had had an interview with Khrushchev, at the former's request. In answer to his query, Mr. Merchant said that this was concerned only with the arrangements for the visit of the President to the Soviet Union and had no connection with the recent incident involving the forcible searching of military attaches.

2. Resignation of Pinay

Mr. Allen solicited the views of the Board on M. Pinay's resignation. Mr. Dulles and Mr. Merchant agreed that the principal factor was opposition to de Gaulle's stand on NATO.

3. Appointment of OCB Chairman

Mr. Harr informed the Board that the President would very shortly issue two letters. One will appoint Mr. Gray as Chairman and the other will assign designated studies to Mr. Harr, who will be expected to take the lead in developing certain new measures.

The Brookings Institute report on Executive Branch organization, just released, was mentioned, along with the possibility that Mr. Harr's new assignments might be interpreted as being in response to these recommendations. Mr. Harr said that there was of course no such connection and that the issuance of his letter might be speeded up in order not to give the impression that there was.

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4. Mr. Hagerty's Trip to Latin America

Mr. Allen told the group that Press Secretary Hagerty is leaving tomorrow morning for Latin America in preparation for the President's trip. He said that Mr. Hagerty had declined to include a man from USIA although Mr. Allen had requested it. The latter conceded that he might have made this request too late and not vigorously enough, but he deplored the fact that it was not accepted. He expressed the opinion, and the Board generally agreed, that Presidential trips of this kind could be exploited for their corollary affect in building up certain executive agencies in relations with their foreign counterparts. It was pointed out that the Russians appear to do this rather well.

5. Sprague Committee

Mr. Gray noted that the Staff Directorship of this committee had been offered to Waldemar Nielsen and that he probably would accept but that he will not be able to assume his duties until about the 15th of February. He also repeated that the public members would almost certainly be restricted to three in number and that Philip Reed will probably be the third one, the other two being C. D. Jackson and Mr. Sprague himself.

6. Soviet Missile Tests

With regard to the Soviet announcements about missile tests in the Pacific, Mr. Dulles said that he believes this is primarily a propaganda play because in the past the Soviets have always maintained strict secrecy before launching any endeavor in space. He concluded from this that the form of the Russian announcement indicates that they have something quite spectacular to reveal.

A suggestion was made, although not thoroughly considered, that the U.S. might offer assistance to the Soviets in monitoring the results of their tests. In any case Mr. Douglas undertook to see what various elements of Defense are planning to do about monitoring these activities.

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ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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